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Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jan Piotr **Jaremczuk** (Poland)

I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East: United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 59th, 60th, 61st, 72 and 74th meetings, on 8, 9 and 26 May and 2 June 2000. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/54/SR.59, 60, 61, 72 and 74).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General concerning the financial performance of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 (A/54/708);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General containing the proposed budget for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001 (A/54/724);

(c) Reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/54/841 and Add.2).

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II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.69

4. At the 72nd meeting, on 26 May, the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, coordinator of the informal consultations on this item, informed the Committee that no agreement had been reached during the informal consultations with a view to presenting a draft resolution under the item.

5. At the same meeting, the representative of Nigeria, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon" (A/C.5/54/L.69).

6. At the 74th meeting, on 2 June, the representative of the United States of America made a statement, and requested that a single vote be taken on the first preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.69. The representatives of Israel, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya also made statements.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the first preambular paragraph and operative paragraphs 2, 3 and 14 of draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.69 by a recorded vote of 59 to 2, with 40 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahrain, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay.

8. Also at the 74th meeting, the representative of the United States of America requested that a recorded vote be taken on draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.69 as a whole.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/54/L.69, as a whole, by a recorded vote of 99 to 2 (see para. 11). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam,

Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Nigeria (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China), Australia (on behalf also of Canada and New Zealand), Japan, Lebanon and Portugal (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union and Bulgaria, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and Turkey.

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

11. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/233 of 13 June 1997, 52/237 of 26 June 1998 and 53/227 of 8 June 1999,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon[1] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Bearing in mind Security Council resolution 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, by which the Council established the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, and the

[1] A/54/708 and A/54/724.
[2] A/54/841 and Add.2.

subsequent resolutions by which the Council extended the mandate of the Force, the latest of which was resolution 1288 (2000) of 31 January 2000,

Recalling its resolution S-8/2 of 21 April 1978 on the financing of the Force and its subsequent resolutions thereon, the latest of which was resolution 53/227,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Force are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Force, a different procedure is required from that applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Noting with appreciation that voluntary contributions have been made to the Force,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Force with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

Concerned that the Secretary-General continues to face difficulties in meeting the obligations of the Force on a current basis, including reimbursement to current and former troop-contributing States,

Concerned also that the surplus balances in the Special Account for the Force have been used to meet expenses of the Force in order to compensate for the lack of income resulting from non-payment and late payment by Member States of their contributions,

1. *Takes note* of the status of contributions to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon as at 30 April 2000, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 122.5 million United States dollars, representing some 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Force to the period ending 30 June 2000, notes that some 18 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. *Expresses its deep concern* that Israel did not comply with General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237 and 53/227;

3. *Stresses once again* that Israel should strictly abide by General Assembly resolutions 51/233, 52/237 and 53/227;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

5. *Expresses concern* about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursements to troop contributors that bear additional burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

6. *Urges* all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Force in full and on time;

7. *Expresses concern* at the delay experienced by the Secretary-General in deploying and providing adequate resources to some recent peacekeeping missions, in particular those in Africa;

8. *Emphasizes* that all future and existing peacekeeping missions shall be given equal and non-discriminatory treatment in respect of financial and administrative arrangements;

9. *Also emphasizes* that all peacekeeping missions shall be provided with adequate resources for the effective and efficient discharge of their respective mandates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the fullest possible use of facilities and equipment at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy, in order to minimize the costs of procurement for the Force, and for this purpose requests the Secretary-General to speed up the implementation of the asset management system at all peacekeeping missions in accordance with General Assembly resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997;

11. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure their full implementation;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Force is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in order to reduce the cost of employing General Service staff, to continue efforts to recruit local staff for the Force against General Service posts, commensurate with the requirements of the Force;

14. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures to ensure the full implementation of paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution 51/233, paragraph 5 of resolution 52/237 and paragraph 11 of resolution 53/227, stresses once again that Israel shall pay the amount of 1,284,633 dollars resulting from the incident at Qana on 18 April 1996, and requests the Secretary-General to report on this matter to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session;

15. *Decides* to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon the amount of 146,833,694 dollars gross (141,889,841 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001, inclusive of the amount of 6,967,059 dollars gross (5,895,590 dollars net) for the support account for peacekeeping operations and the amount of 1,089,216 dollars gross (969,161 dollars net) for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi,

[3] A/54/841/Add.2.

16. *Decides also*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 12,236,141 dollars gross (11,824,153 dollars net) for the period from 1 to 31 July 2000, in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996, 51/218 A to C of 18 December 1996 and 52/230 of 31 March 1998 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993, 50/451 B of 23 December 1995 and 54/456 to 54/458 of 23 December 1999, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A of 22 December 1997 and 54/237 A of 23 December 1999;

17. *Decides further* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 411,988 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 to 31 July 2000;

18. *Decides* that, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 16 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 8,329,300 dollars gross (8,084,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999;

19. *Decides also* that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Force, their share of the unencumbered balance of 8,329,300 dollars gross (8,084,600 dollars net) for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

20. *Decides further*, as an ad hoc arrangement, to apportion among Member States the amount of 134,597,552 dollars gross (130,065,688 dollars net) for the period from 1 August 2000 to 30 June 2001, at a monthly rate of 12,236,141 dollars gross (11,824,153 dollars net), in accordance with the scheme set out in the present resolution, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 2000, as set out in its resolutions 52/215 A and 54/237 A, and for the year 2001,[4] subject to the decision of the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Force beyond 31 July 2000;

21. *Decides* that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X), there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 20 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 4,531,865 dollars approved for the Force for the period from 1 August 2000 to 30 June 2001;

22. *Emphasizes* that no peacekeeping mission shall be financed by borrowing funds from other active peacekeeping missions;

23. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to take additional measures to ensure the safety and security of all personnel under the auspices of the United Nations participating in the Force;

[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

24. *Invites* voluntary contributions to the Force in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

25. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session, under the item entitled "Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon".